



Shop 'til you drop
Donations stores have listed gifts and trends.
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SPOKE

A LEARNING NEWSROOM FOR JOURNALISM STUDENTS



Buzzed speaks
Conestoga students help prepare his meal.
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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2014

CONESTOGA COLLEGE, KITCHENER, ONT.

WWW.SPOKEONLINE.COM

43RD YEAR — PG. 23

United Way short of goal

By BEN STODOLSKI

Conestoga College fell short of its United Way fundraising goal this year.

The college raised about \$44,000 of the \$50,000 goal through scheduled events, staff bazaar draws and pledges. Still to come is aid to be added to the total in \$200 from residents and \$150 from a Tree Lunch.

Jennifer Lewis, a Conestoga business systems assistant, said that staff are negotiating with low.

"It wasn't just the participation rate for support staff that was low," Lewis said. "Administrative and faculty contributions dropped." She attributed this to the staff strike and the family cut-backs.

"Many gave to the family campaign and didn't have the funds to give to United Way," Conestoga's Family Campaign is asking contributors to donate money as an event meant to students, in the case, awards and in the college's future. The campaign goal is \$500,000, of which \$100,000 has already been raised.

"We are still pleased with our fundraising," Lewis said. "While the campaign is officially over, there is still a call for donors for a PlayStation 3 and a notebook computer this week. The Conestoga Soccer's Club is also holding a game day fundraiser from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Annual \$1,000 was raised from students, parents, friends, such as the March to Win 4 in Oct. 20.

United Way of Kitchener Waterloo and Area itself is expecting to receive only \$1.9 million of its \$6 million goal for their 44 campaigns this year.

HE'S GOING TO FIND OUT WHO'S NAUGHTY OR NICE



PHOTO BY JULIEN BLAKE

July-aid Saint Nick made a pit stop in Kitchener on Nov. 20 for the Santa Claus parade. For story and more photos, see Pages 8 and 9.

Battle of the books

By JULIA DODD SMITH

Literature are conversations with books, but these days, not all of the books at Conestoga College's Library Resource Centre (LRC) are bound on its shelves.

Though print books and e-books are plentiful in content, e-books, which are more loaded rather than borrowed, are becoming popular with students because of their advantages. They can be viewed by several people at once, unlike a print book, of which the library only has one copy. They are also available any time, any place where there's Internet access, including other Conestoga campuses and students' homes — a feature especially useful for part-time and non-traditional education students, who are not always on campus for an extended period, or during the LRC's daytime hours of operation.

E-books are also preferred by many who are visually impaired because the type-

text can be increased. The LRC now spends over half its annual expenditures on e-books and databases and has about 50,000 titles available at its website: www.conestoga.ca/collections.

Despite the popularity and advantages of e-books, some students still prefer books in the traditional form. Adam Barrow, a student in the one-year TESOL program, is one of the e-book skeptics but still prefers the tactile quality of a physical book that she can physically "flip, look and look" between pages.

A review is held annually to decide which books on the shelves are still relevant. "Just because a book is old," Information Services coordinator Rachel Caldwell said, "doesn't mean it's not useful." Other books that are considered as new as historical material are still useful to the LRC.

The LRC also has an office collection of novels, magazines and, more recently, DVDs, made up of mostly donations.



PHOTO BY JESSICA SMITH

One of the LRC's 2,200 weekly visitors, Steve Verreyn, a second-year accounting student, works on his laptop in a quiet corner.

Now deep thoughts ... with Conestoga College

Random questions answered by random students

When is the right time to put up your Christmas tree?



"Around whenever the first snowfall is, because it gets the Christmas feeling going and that's when Christmas season begins!"

Matt Bonfanti,
second year
police foundation

"Usually around the first or second week of December."

Aaron Curtis,
second year
police foundation



"Anytime in December but Christmas is way sweeter."

Rhian Triflino,
first year
interior decorating



"Any, I because it sounds like a good time."

Matt Bonfanti,
first-year
general arts and sciences



"I usually wait until the first week of December, usually around Dec. 2 or 16 because I don't like having a Christmas tree up a long time."

Adrian Babay,
first year
media foundation



"When I was a kid, I usually put it up around mid-December or so. I don't really like to have a Christmas tree up before that or past after."

Berlie Wilson,
first year
media foundation

Avoid fighting your family

By AMELIA WILSON-CORRELL

The holiday season is upon us and with it comes the stresses of stress, last-minute shopping and trying to figure out how much money is spent on gifts. Then there are the family get-togethers. Yes, sometimes they can be fun. You get to catch up with family you haven't seen in a while, but there's always that relative who puts a damper on all the fun. Whether it's the drunken uncle, the pompous grandma or the drama queen cousin, almost everybody has relatives they'd rather not see over the holidays or at any other time for that matter.

It's never an enjoyable experience when you have relatives who can't get along for some reason, and you end up being a witness to their wily arguments. David Grubbs is a student in the respiratory therapy program. He knows that all too well.

"We never always fight," said Grubbs. "They have very opposing personalities and they get on each other's nerves."

Then there's the individual who nobody in the family can stand. This is usually due to his or her attitude toward the rest of the family.

"I have one aunt that nobody particularly likes," said Mark Bonfanti, a second-year student in police foundation. "She's kind of snooty and mean to everyone. We have to see her

every year as we kind of have to power through it."

Nothing says fun like a long last relative suddenly showing up. Back in the case for David Laves, who works behind the front desk at Conestoga Bookstore. One year his long last cousin who had been disowned from the family decided to make an appearance. What was even more shocking than her sudden appearance was that she had a child. An awkward moment for everyone, but not the only one.

Almost everybody has relatives they'd rather not see over the holidays.

Laves also told the story of when his father decided to invite his brother over for Christmas without telling the family. He thought it would be a pleasant surprise. It was a surprise all right, but pleasant it was not. It turned out her mother did not get along with her brother-in-law. They had not been kind to her in the past, so she cancelled Christmas.

Unfortunately, most of us can't avoid our Christmas relatives. So we just have to deal with them. According to an article on www.associatedcontent.com, here are a few tips on how to cope with such family members.

When you arrive at the get-together, acknowledge your family members accordingly. Some will get hugs and a kiss on the cheek, while others get a smile and a nod. No need to go out of your way and make yourself uncomfortable.

No need to have a game plan or mind should you get nervous. Try to come up with some very good reasons as to why you can't speak to them. Also, don't get embarrassed or ashamed to simply walk away from certain people. If they have any sense at all, they will eventually figure out why you're avoiding them in the first place.

Remember, you're not alone in this matter. Chances are they realize how awkward other family members are with you. You will have allies.

Stick to family members who you truly cherish and spend some quality time with them. Keep yourself grounded in those conversations and do not make any eye contact with the annoying relatives.

Politely make other family members aware of how uncomfortable you are with their parents and ask them to help you keep an eye out, or even you should you get nervous.

Finally, arrange it so that at least one person you do not get nervous from or next to them. Sit with family members you're comfortable with.

Follow these tips and your holiday get-togethers will be less awkward for you.

Cartoon of the Week



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David Suzuki promotes sustainability

Conestoga students help prepare meal for famous scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster

By DEBRA SMITH

Young and bold, not wise and old when students from Conestoga's culinary program prepared a meal for David Suzuki on Nov. 25.

The students also helped prepare a four-course meal for guests of a special event at Riverside Grille and Bar in Kitchener. The dinner was planned by chefs at the restaurant but the event was organized by World Accord.

World Accord is an organization based in Waterloo that works with people to develop an insurance to help them create a sustainable way of life.

The night started out with a presentation for World Accord, followed by dinner and then a question period with Suzuki, who is a well-known scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.

The event brought together people from all over Waterloo Region whose names are to live with that of World Accord.

There are a hundred people here and the majority of them are working, one way or another, around sustainability issues," said World Accord program officer, Melissa Kowalski. "We thought that it was really important to find a way to connect what's happening around with the real farm issue."

The organizers of the event were very happy that Suzuki was able to make it out.

"We felt really lucky because he only does a couple of speaking engagements every year," said Kowalski.

Kowalski also said that Suzuki was a natural fit for the event because of pro-

ject. He said that in the past, he has always taught local and farmers in sustainability and that there's no planet B.

"We came along and met with the organizers and said, yeah, we'll do it."

And he said, when they found out that Suzuki was coming, it was just going on the radio.

"We had a lot of local support, farmers donate product that they had and from that group of product we don't open the menu," he said, "and that's what the students are helping with tonight."

The menu featured several different cuts of duck, David Suzuki's organic beef for the



PHOTO BY DEBRA SMITH

David Suzuki, a renowned environmentalist and broadcaster, answers questions at Riverside Grille and Bar Nov. 25.



Gallantry manager of student Abigail Peters, hotel and restaurant management student Jeremy Torres and culinary management student Spencer Wolff helped prepare a meal for Suzuki.

Next three courses, and a champagne toast that and beverage for dessert.

Conestoga's executive chef Markham Pook helped plan the menu and he appreciated the students' help.

"They were here for eight hours yesterday and almost 16 hours today so I think they did a really good job," said Pook. "Suzuki likes them are always in here, interactive because we're still doing our regular service. I think it's important for them to see how much goes into putting on events like this."

There were three students who went out to land a head. The students all went to the college dining room, known as a regular place, but thought this was a really great experience and were happy to be cooking for a celebrity.

And though Suzuki had a lot of things on his plate that night, between talking about various environmental issues, answering audience questions and signing people's shirts, he said the food was very good and was happy to hear the students had a hand in it.

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STAY WARM THIS WINTER WITH BOOKSTORE SWAG



Lucy Hines, a clerk at Conestoga's bookstore, models some of the fashionable ways to keep warm this winter. She has as well as many other cold weather essentials for sale at the store.

Photo by David Smith

The Trailer Park Boys are back in town

By BRENDAN SMITH

While your children Canada's trailer park trio is coming back to town — and this time they're bringing a couple of guests.

In celebration of the holiday season, Conestoga in the Square will welcome back the Trailer Park Boys — including Laker and Randy — on Nov. 26 for the Dear Santa Claus, Go With Yourself Tour.

According to Julian (John Paul Tremblay), "Randy is not in to go to jail for Christmas, but we're trying to get him out to do that. He that's one of the reasons we're going on tour I guess."

Launched in Nova Scotia on Nov. 24, the Dear Santa Claus tour will take the Boys west into Ontario before departing for the U.S. and Ireland. While this isn't their first tour, this is their first time showing the stage with co-star John Deamus (Mike Laker) and Pat Keady (Randy).

Based on past episodes of the Trailer Park Boys series, the show will explore the different perspectives that each character has on Christmas. Christmas isn't the thing to me and that's it, make money," said Laker. "Randy, he's right into it and he's always trying to

teach me the Christmas spirit, but I don't fall for it. And Randy, he believes in Santa Claus. I don't know what Randy is going to do about this whole Santa thing but Randy thinks that he's going to meet Santa and that we'll be in the Santa Pole."

In past years, shows have included a number of acts such as musical performances by children and audience participation segments that all take a major theme.

"We hope everybody enjoys not in the show. We're not sure exactly what's going to happen, but no plan on having it this night," said Laker, adding that it will be a great time for anyone looking to get drunk or high.

Although the Trailer Park Boys series ended in 2006, Laker said he planned to hear that the Boys aren't going away any time soon in addition to their new TV show — the French and on Bravo's Happy Hardcore Hour, which launched this year on Action, the cost of Trailer Park Boys has been throwing around the idea of a new movie.

Tickets for the Dear Santa Claus, Go With Yourself tour start at \$10 and can be purchased online at www.conestoga.ca/conestoga or at the Conestoga in the Square box office.

I love Christmas even in October

Most people hate that Christmas is started in their house starting in October.

However, I love walking through my green mall or shopping centre and seeing decorations hanging from the ceiling. Some Christmas decorations to me as I look through window displays and red stockings hung from every corner. Combined with the Christmas music, I feel like I'm walking through a winter wonderland.

Coffee shops such as Tim Hortons and Starbucks have switched their menu items to the holiday cups and decorated with red stars and snowflakes. Kids have started wearing their thick parkas and their furry Santa scarves.

The decorations, Christmas lights and music in public places create a cozy holiday atmosphere, making us out of our homes during the gloomy winter months.

Aside from the holiday decorations, there, if you're as clumsy as I am, and you fly



Heidi Dahlstein
Opinion

ing across the street, winter is a miserable season. It's all about warm clothing, heavily coming together, decorating the Christmas tree, rapping and, of course, presents. If you're a bit more awkward, add a pair of skis to the equation and you'll have the best of times.

To top it all off, every single shopping centre has a Christmas tree and with the lights which make it even or for as students to afford presents for our loved ones.

Although children love Christmas as we might, after Thanksgiving it definitely puts us in the holiday spirit and gives us something to look forward to until we see the sun again.



Help !

EXAM WEEK

Extended Hours in the Library Resource Centre

details @

www.conestoga.ca/lrc

The entire Library is a
QUIET STUDY ZONE
December 5-18, 2011

Tool and Trades Expo an experience

By ALEXANDRA DEER

The fourth annual Tool and Trades Expo was held at the Building Centre at Conestoga's Waterloo campus, Nov. 16, to give students a fun and interactive experience using tools that they will potentially use in the workplace.

"This is really about, and for, students and to give them time to see and experience

tools that are out in the industry," said Doug Lockman, an instructor for the School of Trades and Apprenticeship. "This year we succeeded in having over 500 students attend the show."

Josh Vasey, a first-year carpentry student, said, "I thought it was a lot better than what I was expecting. I quite enjoyed seeing all the tools here and seeing all the

workers I thought they were pretty cool."

There were 23 vendors at the expo, including Midwestern, DeWalt, Stanley/Pross and Ryobi Tools.

Kelli Potts, a national treasurer from Milwaukee, thought that the expo was a great success as well.

"There was good momentum. It was good to see all the trades

at once," Potts said.

The expo was not only a great experience for Conestoga students in the trades and apprenticeship program, but for post-grad event management students as well.

Ashleigh Cannon is one of three students in the event management program chosen to help run the event.

"It helped out a couple

of events but I've never done anything sort of like an expo. I got to see basically the process behind an entire event."

"It's good for me because I've really seen into this program. It was a good learning block," Cannon said.

The event was free to all Conestoga students, but donations to the food bank were welcomed.



PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA DEER

Above: Kelli Potts is a first-year student who saw a skill at the Tool and Trades Expo on Nov. 16.

Above left: Josh Vasey (left) and Josh Vasey, both carpentry students, saw a truck tire at the Expo.

Left: Josh Vasey practices his hammering skills at the expo.

Runner finishes 52nd at nationals

By JACOB THOMPSON

She ran to get to British Columbia.

Sophomore Megan represented Conestoga College at the cross-country nationals on Nov. 13 at Thompson Rivers University in BC.

In a field of 104 runners, Megan placed 52nd in the five-kilometre run with a time of 21:42.

Although her highest placed time this season was seventh during an invitation at Fredericton College on Sept. 19, her best time this season was 21:30 during a race at St. Lawrence in Oct. 20.

REDUCING STRESS, ONE BALLOON AT A TIME



PHOTO BY JACOB THOMPSON

During the Health and Wellness Week, groups of students from the pre-health program held different games and booths in the union and library. These students (above) had a balloon booth where they tried to make people laugh by dressing up and having not balloons.

Donation invaluable

By JACOB THOMPSON

Leifhardt Martin is giving Conestoga College \$3.7 million worth of electronic coursework products.

The global languages, defense, security and advanced technology company hopes the donation will help students learn the skills required by employers, especially those in the engineering systems skills industry.

At the college's board of directors meeting on Nov. 18, members were told the donation is part of a government policy that requires companies to convert the same amount of capital funds into Canada as its government contracts.

Other highlights of the

meeting included the approval of two new programs — an educational assistant diploma program starting in January 2015 and a post-management health care program starting in September 2015.

Conestoga College president John Tibbatts also said at least three Chinese universities are showing interest in a partnership with the college. "Part of our mandate is to internationalize," he said.

An example he gave was a three-year program being set up with the universities where students would study in China for the first two years, and then come to Canada for their final year. "Through meeting in person yet, Tibbatts said the universities



PHOTO BY BRANDY KOPPELMAN

Brandon Sklar, an employee at The Catamount, shows off some of the patches they offer in the store located in downtown Kitchener on Nov. 18. Sklar said, "People should come downtown to keep places like this open. We need the foot traffic to pay the bills."

Discover your downtown

By BRANDY KOPPELMAN

Do you get downtown? Then you should get downtown!

If you don't get downtown, Mark Garner, executive director of the Downtown Waterloo Business Improvement Area, hopes that you soon will.

With the upcoming Christmas season, he's aiming to attract students downtown for a unique shopping experience and then keep them coming back for more.

"You might be going to Toronto, you might be going to Hamilton to try and find that site... We don't want you to go into the car, we're just building it downtown."

Though he noted there are already plenty of "great shops" downtown, Garner hopes to fill the empty retail spaces with the stores the public wants to see.

The BIA is partnering with the City of Kitchener to do a public consultation on what they want downtown. He read the boxes in "Japanese" and the

post-secondary demographic. "You guys can determine what this place means to you and what you want it to be."

But to determine what you want downtown, you first have to experience what it has to offer.

Garner highlighted 10 must-visit stores for the shops around: Café Pym, Inco's Records, K-Bar-C, Out of the Past, The Catamount, Glass Boutique and Salon, Bookish, The New York Pitts Co., Cecilia's Framing and Darkhorse Bookery, just to name a few.

If none of those that you loved, there might be something else for you among the many unique, local, authentic restaurants and diverse stores.

Additionally, the BIA is trying to attract other businesses from different parts to open statements of their local here.

"We want to bring in diverse, diverse businesses."

No, it's not going to sell. But do I want to bring overboard my shops and that type of stuff? Yes, that's what we're

going for. That's what we want," Garner said.

If you don't have the extra money to splash at these stores, you could attend one of the many events downtown.

In addition to the K&H Music Festival, Garner hopes to partner with Champaign, Ill., and Summers Event for a weekend "Snow Jam." He wants to build a snow hill in a parking lot next to a stage where bands will play on a Friday, before moving the event to Champaign for the remainder of the weekend.

"Lawyers don't really like when you track in 30,000 tonnes of snow and get a railing on it and say, 'Go for it' and that's what we're doing. That's what we're doing. Where else can you do that stuff? Downtown."

He said this isn't the only unique feature to downtown. He described an "historic, historic, historic" area.

"Come discover your downtown. There's places for you. There's places for me. There's places for everybody," said Garner.



Tanya Mies, owner of Bookish, sits with many of the staffed animals the store offers. Mies said that animals should come downtown because it's full of unique shops and unique places to visit, and you'll find a lot more independent businesses downtown. There's a real community feel in a downtown core.

Bookish is a store that offers organic, vegan goods and handmade soaps and bath products. It's a place where you can find a lot of unique items and services. Mies said that animals should come downtown because it's full of unique shops and unique places to visit, and you'll find a lot more independent businesses downtown. There's a real community feel in a downtown core.



Daniela Archer, an employee of Café Pym and Inco's Records, hopes to partner with Champaign, Ill., and Summers Event for a weekend "Snow Jam." He wants to build a snow hill in a parking lot next to a stage where bands will play on a Friday, before moving the event to Champaign for the remainder of the weekend.

10 MUST-VISIT

STORES

Café Pym

A café that offers organic, vegan goods and handmade soaps and bath products. It's a place where you can find a lot of unique items and services.

Inco's Records

A store that stocks new and used CDs and vinyl records that might not be available elsewhere in the city.

Out of the Past

Another music store that has a lot of vinyl and CDs you won't find in chains.

Bookish

A vintage clothing store that also has a huge selection of baby, jewelry and paper, bags and clothing accessories.

The Catamount

A store that sells a wide range of handmade clothing and accessories.

Glass Boutique and Salon

A salon offering hair, skin, and nails. It's a place where you can find a lot of unique items and services.

Darkhorse Bookery

A bookstore that offers a wide range of books and services. It's a place where you can find a lot of unique items and services.

Bookish

A gift shop that sells a wide range of unique items and services. It's a place where you can find a lot of unique items and services.

The New York Pitts Co.

A restaurant offering pizza, burgers, and other food. It's a place where you can find a lot of unique items and services.

Chloe's Pottery

A pottery studio that offers pottery classes and services. It's a place where you can find a lot of unique items and services.

Consignment Bookery

A bookstore that offers a wide range of books and services. It's a place where you can find a lot of unique items and services.

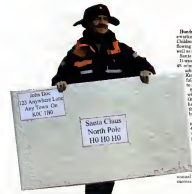


Rebecca Lefebvre, owner of Glass Boutique and Salon, poses with some of the clothes they offer at the store. Lefebvre said, "I think the reason that students and others should come downtown to shop is to see and because they're mixing out as a whole lot of cool businesses, and it's more of an independent and feel that going to the mall."



The Kluge family's Klugehouse Wilhelmus Bieder Claus Parade was held on Nov. 20 on King Street at 24, 26 and 48 blocks, 24 blocks and a total of 128 members.

Here comes Santa Claus



IN LIONS' CLAWS

Hundreds lined up along the street awaiting the big main event. Children pumped up and down, over flowing with joy and excitement as well as candy cane and sweets.

Santa was coming to town. It was 10:15 on Saturday, Nov. 18, 45 minutes before the parade was scheduled to begin, and already King Street in Klugehouse was full of people who were anxious to see jolly old St. Nick.

Santa sang Christmas carols while they were waiting. Others drank hot cocoa and huddled in their blankets as the chilly morning air breathed against their faces.

"I love the parade! Santa's my favourite part," said April 4, who was leaving the cold waiting for the jolly old man to pull up on her sleigh.

The next 45 minutes flew by and the parade began, right on schedule. Crowded with all sorts of bands and 115 entries all together, the Klugehouse Winterfest Klugehouse Santa Claus parade was a success.

One little girl sat on the curb with a paper to gaze on her face for the colour parade, while others found their faces in their hands when a clown walked by, repeatedly the head of clown.

"I love clown, there's just something about them that I love him," said Dennis Rogers, a first-year musician and biology student at Camosun College. "I will bring my sister to the parade, they love the excitement."

Clown bands, musicians, performers, the Grinch and even Mr. Peabody all showed up to support their local group from the Lions Club to hockey associations to and many and animal shelter.

"I love what the parade brings to the city and how much everyone gets involved and supports it," said Mr. Thompson, parade chairman and Lions Club president.

The parade concluded after an hour and a half of Christmas carols, "Merry Christmas" and "Happy Holidays" and the children the candy canes and popcorn.

Toys, canned food and letters to Santa were all collected to make Christmas better for everyone.

Cambridge also held their Santa Claus parade Saturday.



PHOTOS BY JAZZYN BLACK





PHOTO BY KAREN, SENIOR

A drum circle was held at Conestoga College on Nov. 28. Above: students participate in activities such as deeping with your neighbor with your eyes closed.

Drum circle gets college groovin'

By KAREN, SENIOR

You feel the rhythm as your palms strike the smooth face of the drums. Voices ring out, clashing in time with the beat. You're creating from beneath your hands. Cheers, echoed in traditional African fashion, ring and ring, their whole bodies moving in sync to the sounds.

Opening your eyes, you are transported into Africa back to the Student Life Center, where you sit in a circle. For one person, between everyone's knees is a drum, a traditional West African drum.

On Nov. 28, Katherine van Lemmonen, co-founder of Omega Kinesis, a workshop that provides creative outlets for students, led a drum circle at the college.

The drums (approximately 100 lbs) used, were from Ghana, and consisted of one solid piece of wood. They were beautifully hand carved, with goat skin stretched over the

top and open for tuning.

"When we play the drum we talk to it — we open the drum's mouth as it can sing," van Lemmonen instructed the circle.

The group, which was composed of Conestoga students, took part in, got nervous and learned to play different beats to the drums. "I love my drums," and "I love music, too, I love Ghana!"

First-time drummer player Penelope Banks said he loved the changes in tempo and different ways of playing.

"It was awesome," Banks said. "I felt like I was involved in the music. I liked it a lot."

The African drumming circle workshop was held at the session with Omega Kinesis, which Student Life describes as "a time to embrace, celebrate and experience cultural diversity in our campus community." The work also included activities and challenges strengthening mind, body,

PHOTO BY KAREN, SENIOR

Omega Kinesis co-founder Katherine van Lemmonen led the students in greeting and rhythms.



HOROSCOPE

Week of Nov. 28, 2011



Aries
March 21 - April 19



Libra
September 23 - October 23

A big opportunity may arise this week, though it may change your life forever that isn't necessarily a bad thing. It changes in what you need them take it.

Nothing gets past will only bring you down in the end, let go of whatever has you hold this week and you will finally start to live again.



Taurus
April 20 - May 20



Scorpio
October 23 - November 21

Once in a while when you major actually comes true, expect the impossible this week.

A past regret may come back and haunt you this week. Try and remember what's done is done and you have to live with the choice, no matter what.



Gemini
May 21 - June 21



Sagittarius
November 22 - December 21

There's never any drama in getting hooked there in life, it's trying down there's the problem. This week make sure that you get back up.

Let's be in the of the week, do your best to stand the moment and live in the now, you never know when it will end.



Cancer
June 22 - July 22



Capricorn
January 20 - February 19

Sometimes close to you may become even closer; don't be afraid of a change in friendship this week.

Remember, you will learn more from failure than you ever will from success. Learn this lesson this week and you'll come out stronger than ever before.



Leo
July 23 - August 22



Aquarius
January 20 - February 18

Sometimes the only thing to do is what you feel and continue forward, trying it will only make things worse this week.

Just because something is horrible now doesn't mean it will stay that way; hold onto it and eventually bad will turn out to be good.



Virgo
August 23 - September 22



Pisces
February 19 - March 20

They may have been called a fool in the past, but that's not a bad thing. Faith change have the biggest lesson so don't be afraid to follow it this week.

It takes away to help someone go through a tough time means that you can about will need of the help in or the case get this week. Be there for them.

James W. Wink is the resident astrologer who passed into the afterlife and now is going back at him, seeing the universe unfold in the stars.

DIVERSITY WEEK BRINGS THE WORLD'S CRAFTS TO CONESTOGA



PHOTO BY JACQUELYNNE HOFFMAN FOR THE PRESS

Tami Harrison, who is in accounting, and Andrew Walsh, who is in supply chain, operate their marriage store, stand in front of an original shop by featured during Diversity Week.

Classic game revived

Ten years later and Halo Combat Evolved has made a comeback.

The first Halo came out in 2001 and the latest game to have for the new system was the first Halo.

The revamped game includes the original game's levels but with new high quality features. The big difference is that the developer of this game is 343 Industries instead of Bungie the usual makers of Halo games.

The remake is selling for \$39.99 instead of the full price of \$59.99 for a new video game release.

For gamers who have been playing Halo from the beginning, the remake is definitely worth taking a look at.

Being the original campaign and multi-player levels with helpful changes as well as newer guns and features in will surprise.

The new update makes you playing second level center, such as the mission now has a new map instead of old ones.

While playing the remastered campaign, players can push the first button on their controllers and get a look at what the game looked like 10 years ago. There is the chance of playing with the original look from 2001 or the updated levels and



Bryan West
Opinion

improving the storyline is exactly the same as the original with no major changes. Even the script of each character is word for word.

Although the developer changed, they stayed true to the classic game Bungie created 10 years ago.

For those who also own Halo Reach, you are able to download the Combat Evolved maps and play them only using your Reach disk, so you can play both games levels.

I recommend this game for any longtime Halo fan looking for a throwback to old days or for any new Halo fan who is just starting out and wants to see where the game started.

Richard Lane can be reached at



Radiothon offers holiday help to community

By KAREN BRON

"The best reason to help a child is need."

While many of us are out Christmas shopping and planning holiday festivities, it is important to remember those who might need our help during this magical time of year.

Family and Children's Services of the Waterloo Region kicked off their 19th annual Tree of Hope campaign, sponsored by CHYM FM, in an effort to ensure that no child goes without during the holiday season.

"In a perfect world, every

child would be nurtured by a loving family," said Cherie Hicks, promotional director of CHYM FM, who added that this campaign is "really to ensure children and their families are provided a better opportunity than they may be experiencing now."

On Thursday, Dec. 6, Fairview Park Mall will host all the two day M81 CHYM Tree of Hope donations where businesses across Waterloo Region can tune into hear the heart warming stories of children and youth who have benefited from the services of Family and Children's Services. Stories of

hunger, hardships and the simple magic possible by people in the community will be shared with both shoppers and listeners.

With a goal of \$375,000, this year's campaign encourages residents to get involved by leaving their support in the collection.

"This is a great cause because in many children have parents who aren't working right now and sometimes we can make children smile it's always a good thing. Getting in the picture of the season," said longtime Fairview Mall shopper, Alison Nolan.

Donations will be accepted by Yee, Mastercard, American Express and personal cheques. People can stop by the live broadcast located near the Lanesville entrance at any time to donate a gift or lend their support. If anyone is unable to make it to the mall on Thursday, donations can also be dropped off at any TD Canada Trust bank, and requesting it to be deposited to account 5581603, branch 0005.

For anyone wondering what their donations and efforts benefit, Hicks is proud to say that the money

raised from the community "goes to help programs offered by Family and Children's Services," which includes family life activities, adoption and support of families in need.

Hicks also said that through donations they are able to fund these programs that "ensure children's lives."

There are numerous other ways to donate to the cause including simply volunteering your time at getting your workplace involved. For more information visit the Family and Children's Services website at www.fcs.waterloo.on.ca.



M83's new album repetitive, cliché

M83 isn't just the design team for a special galaxy 10 mil. by light years away - it's also the name of a French indie pop band whose latest release, *Mezzanine*, is reminiscent of music that flowed through cassette decks and radios 30 years ago.

Known for their heavy use of reverb effects and pulsing synths played over loud, muffled music, M83's latest effort will not disappoint longtime fans. However, it may come as a shock to someone who isn't expecting the strange to mix, create a style of music the band's past-dubbed "choreography." The band was named after the two in electronic music during the 60s and early 70s who relied heavily on live pedals to add to overall and other effects to their music during concerts, restricting them to one spot on the stage while standing as their live act.

The album begins with a track aptly named, *Intro*, that sets the scene through 72 minutes of vast, surreal electronics with a few fast-paced bumps made of noise that could have easily made their way into a John Cage's avant-garde turn collective noise soundtrack.

Melange City, the first single, and on the only song to be made into a video, is pure noise. Its melody with an instrumental texture created by Anthony Gonzalez's scolding vocals played through a myriad of different synths that all seem to "bleed." If only the entire album was as fun to listen to.

Unfortunately, the album, with a few exceptions along the way, is more of a sensory one would find in an antique store titled, "Things no one



Anthony Gonzalez

care about anymore." While the majority of the album could be considered as a hard drive's echo machine, it will be mostly missed by younger generations and anyone who who doesn't like as nothing more than a decade full of terrible fashion mistakes, copy cat recreations of cocaine and acids that could pass as evidence and then show if played too loudly.

In an interview with the *Guardian*, Gonzalez, one of the band's founders, told the British publication that he went to Joshua Tree for inspiration. For those of you who are unaware of what Joshua Tree is, it is a national park in California that is synonymous with isolation and sometimes hallucinogenic drug use. It is a popular destination point for artists and those seeking the "truth." Gonzalez was quoted as saying, "We so enjoyed it here, but it worked. I could rent a small cabin in the middle of nowhere, and I was just making music there by myself. There were the best moments. It was a good way to be inspired by something else, the music from a different landscape."

For those who enjoy the album, the quote might explain the vastness of the melodies and overall ambient feeling the album carries. For those of you who don't, however, it all explains how repetitive and cliché the album actually is.

Respect matters in our hallways.

We think about those around us and ensure the hallways are accessible for everyone.

Thank You for Being the Difference



The power of We

By NADINE GAYNE

They came from over 300 southern Ontario schools and returned home inspired to change the world.

In its fifth year, We Day, an annual youth empowerment event, will travel across Canada and bring together over 40,000 students in Vancouver, Toronto, Waterloo Region, Winnipeg and Montreal by March 2012.

We Day in Waterloo Region inspired over 4,000 students at the Kitchener Auditorium on Nov. 16 who learned about the world's most pressing issues, including world hunger, human rights, child soldiers, Canada's Aboriginal people and HIV/AIDS, and how they as collective groups have the power to make a change.

"The power of 'we,' thinking and acting as a group, was the thread that kept together each speaker and volunteer of the day."

"You are the architects of the future. You are the only generation that will change the course of history," said

Max Barrak, actress, activist and a UNICEF goodwill ambassador to the support of the cause of refugees in countries struggling with conflict.

Students were encouraged by the event's organizers, Craig and Mary Kellerman, as hundreds of international children's choirs, from the Children in Return home and participants in the We Schools in Action program.

Last year, students involved in the program raised \$1 million to support local initiatives and \$4.4 million to support global causes and the Kellermans' foundation.

Looking forward, motivational speaker Spencer Weiss, who learned to walk on his hands after losing his legs at the age of five, challenged the students at the event to embrace their potential.

"I stand here as living proof that we can realize what's possible," he said. "Next place to look after's tallest mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro, with two friends in June 2012."



PHOTO BY NADINE GAYNE
Students wait a while for Kithenna Ayl on Nov. 16 for We Day in Kitchener.

The day's keynote speakers included Maya Johnson and Canadian Kid Hero Roman Belizan and featured entertainment by Sharna Dorman, Neverest and The Midway State.

The event was primarily sponsored by Research in Motion and had five admission



A student participates in the activities of We Day, an annual youth empowerment event. He was one of 4,000 students from over 300 southern Ontario high schools who attended.

Kirby's back on Wii

Get ready for an adventure with Kirby that was 11 years in the making.

Kirby's Return to Dreamland first started development in 2000, right after Kirby 64 was released. In 2006 the game was taken off the list of releases for the Nintendo GameCube. A year later, when most people were expecting it to be out for the Nintendo Wii, it again failed to appear. Finally on Dec. 16, 2011, the long-awaited game for the children and promptly flew off shelves.

The game opens with a spaceship crashing into the planet Pop Star Kirby. Mario, Luigi, King Dedede and a whole slew go to investigate the crash site. Then the Red Mole begins a revolt from another dimension, out exploring the universe. He uses them to retrieve the pieces of his ship, the Loo Shooting, that were sent over the planet's surface. Kirby is more than happy to help and sets off on his adventure.

Kirby's friends only truly appear in the opening sequence although they appear in on-or more notable like a permanent home of one



John Davidson
Designer

of Kirby's abilities. Mario, Luigi and Bowser, who are in the game, Kirby has also gained some new enemies to defeat and new new powers that. These can go through with and kill some enemies at the same time. Last allows you to take behind a bush or against a series of leaves to stop everything but your friends to pass.

Super enemies who give enhanced powers when captured appear in certain levels. With Ultra Sword, Kirby summons one of several large weapons to slice ropes and any hapless creatures that are on the way. Super Bowser turns Kirby into a ball of power to roll over enemies. The worlds are beautiful. The designers clearly spent hours perfecting everything. Several levels are usually very bright and colorful, with some of the same sites

looking like a box of crayons exploded on them. The later levels are full of fire and machinery, which while not smooth, are very detailed down to the smallest crack and corner. The bonus areas are mostly grey and have odd backgrounds reminiscent of a whorled made of lines being mixed into a point of light.

Playing with your friends is a joy and enjoyable. Players can be one of Kirby's friends or another differently colored Kirby. Up to five players can work together to explore areas and crush enemies. Players can ride on another player's back to form a train or pile if you have enough people. You can also perform a combination in which by holding down the correct buttons and releasing it in sync with your friends.

Kirby's Return to Dreamland is something any one who enjoys running, jumping and exploring-type games should play. It may have taken over a decade to be released but that time was spent making it a blast for the ages and fun for anyone who picks up the controller. I give this game a 4.5 out of 10.

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PHOTO BY JEFF BROWNE

Above: Geoff Wain, Brandon Clarke and Ryan Singh, all third-year students, offered advice to students before they showed off their Rube Goldberg designs on Nov. 28 at the Cambridge campus.

Right: Dylan May used his hand saw to free the loading team from Scott's Rube Goldberg design.



Building a better mousetrap

By JEFF BROWNE

Student design project challenging

The pressure was on. With only 58 seconds to go on themselves, Cambridge students showed off their Rube Goldberg designs, leaving the school laughing.

Goldberg was an American cartoonist, sculptor, writer, engineer and inventor who was best known for his complex, ingenious, complex projects that performed simple tasks in indirect, convoluted ways. These devices are now known as Rube Goldberg machines.

At the Cambridge campus on Nov. 18, the mechanical engineering school — students and numerous second-year students showed off their

Rube Goldberg machines

Each one had to have eight steps. For the final stage, the students had to find a way to transfer coffee into a cup.

For extra marks, the students were challenged to make a diagram into a plan. The students only had 30 seconds to complete the task.

They were given three weeks, no budget and little class time to plan and design the machines. The students were divided into small groups to complete the task.

For some, they found it to be a great challenge. "This included Kelly Macleod who was wearing a cape

during the event. He talked about his group's struggle to put the project together.

"It was both difficult and fun. The planning was a mystery. It was great to plan it out but it was so hard to get all the pieces to work together, especially the mousetraps," he said.

"It was a hard job, in the same breath, it was just entertaining to do something completely ridiculous for once."

Engineering technology teacher Henry Korman, was excited to see everything in motion.

As the students were being judged, only a few teams had signs up and

each team showed a strong knowledge of what they were doing.

David Brown of team Rascals and members did a great job listening to each other and made lots of changes when they needed to. He said by the end of the week everyone was so devoted that they knew that they needed to stick together and finish the project.

Brown had a hard time with the project and said he almost quit until round two.

"It was a lot of fun, I loved it. We tried to incorporate a couple of things. I am happy with the water level and the marble running. The only thing we lacked was the mousetrap and maybe an animal." Brown said.



COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: DEPRESSION

Most of us have experienced waking up in a bad mood or "feeling the blues." These feelings are usually of short duration and have minimal impact on our lives. Some

people experience sadness, loneliness, hopelessness, self-doubt, and guilt for weeks, months and even years. These experiences characterize depression, an illness believed to affect one in ten.

Here are some signs which might indicate that you or someone you care about is experiencing depression:

FEELINGS: loss of joy in formerly pleasurable activities; crying a lot or feeling emotionally "empty"; hopelessness, worthlessness, loss of warmth towards key people in life; loss of sexual desire; deep sense of shame or self-doubt.

PHYSICAL: overwhelming exhaustion and lack of energy; insomnia or sleeping too much; loss of appetite or over-eating; physical aches and pains; digestive problems; headaches.

BEHAVIOUR: irritability; withdrawal; neglect of responsibilities or appearance; reduced concentration; memory or ability to cope with daily activities.

If these symptoms persist, or if their intensity is causing you to consider suicide as an option, it is important to seek assistance with a knowledgeable professional immediately 1-866-368-4566. On campus, counsellors are available at Counselling Services (1A101); a nurse and doctor are available in Health Services (1A102).

A Message from Counselling Services

Team Angry Pirates used a golf ball in their design.



Below: Northwood, Michael Bourque, Brandon Leung and Matt Brown, all MIT students and role model students, pose for a photo after showing off their designs.

Condors bring home the silver

By JEFF BERENSON

This is what sports are made of — a first-year sports team, clearly the underdog, playing in the gold medal game against the defending champion.

The Conestoga Condors won silver in women's volleyball as they lost, 3-0 (15-12, 12-15, 12-15) against Humboldt in the Olympic College Athletic Association (OCAA) championship game on Nov. 12.

The game was the third time Conestoga and Humboldt played each other this season. Humboldt won all three of the

games on their way to an undefeated season.

Conestoga had a strong start to the season, winning their first two games against Mount St. Joseph and Mitchell. However, they followed with a three-game losing streak, two of the games being against Humboldt, but pulled it back together as they defeated Mitchell 15-12 on Oct. 28. The Condors finished the regular season with a 3-1 record, placing second in the West Region Conference.

The team's first playoff game was against the first Region's top team, the

Lawrence Conestoga was 15-12 on the Nov. 8 match.

"The season ending also was some great individual performance as Rachel Daniels' Points was named the OCAA player of the week after she scored the game winning try in the first game of the season.

Athletic director Marlene Ford was happy with the team's performance as this was the first season that Conestoga participated in women's volleyball.

"I am extremely proud of how well the girls did this year," she said. "For a first-

year team and a first-year program, it was a positive start and women's volleyball has a bright future at Conestoga."

Paul Oshiro, director of athletics and recreation, complimented the team on their progression throughout the season.

"It has been an amazing inaugural season," he said.

"We went from wondering how many would show up to trying to fighting to the last second of the last game for the gold medal. The players and coaches worked very hard all season and deserved the success they achieved."

The Condors were hopeful before the season began as the team's assistant coach, first-year general and statistic student, Brittany Connel, said that they were "going for gold." The head coach, Jack Wink, also noticed the team's talent prior to the season and predicted correctly when he said that they expected to finish in the top two in their division.

Although they didn't win gold, they received silver and showed they are one of the preeminent in the West Region.

Conestoga lets one slip away

By JEFF BERENSON

A few steps away from victory, the only Condors showed lots of determination but let one slip away during a thrilling five set loss to Mitchell College.

The Conestoga College women's volleyball team finished their home opener on Nov. 18 as they played the Mitchell Mountaineers. Conestoga lost the five set match, 24-25, 25-23, 25-23, 25-23, 25-27 to 25 and finally lost to 25.

First-year head coach, Mark Gensch said after the game, "It's a heart-breaking loss. Everyone thought we had it but I guess we didn't come through at the end. I think what really let us down was the execution in the critical moments."

After winning the second set, Conestoga couldn't keep the momentum as the

Mountaineers took control of the third set and looked determined to win the match.

But the Condors dug deep to the fourth set to extend the match to a fifth set.

The thrilling fourth set included continuous line changes, lots of timeouts and multiple rallies. The Condors fought their way through the set and went out as top 27-25, after winning the final three points.

With the support of the spectators during the fifth and final set, Conestoga looked determined to avoid the match away from the Mountaineers.

The Condors started slow and it looked like it was going to be a quick set. However, they rallied and continued their strong play by taking a brief lead but couldn't hold on. Conestoga couldn't set their defensive game but, instead

ing to reach Gensch, it's still something that they need to work on and it's something that the team will continue to practice moving forward.

The Condors struggled to put the Mountaineers away. Gensch said, "There were some very condensed work and the players didn't score allowing the other team to run their offense more effectively. In the end that's what caused us to lose the fifth set," he said.

The soft spoken coach was confident that his team will be able turn it around for the next match.

"This is the difference between two points can mean how to lose and you can win it was. It's a hard loss but we will definitely be back against the team and I think we can beat them. The bad we didn't do it in the home opener but we will not let that happen again," he said.



Photo by Jeff Berenson

Second-year player, Danielle Ponce, spikes the ball during a game at the college on Nov. 18.



Photo by Jeff Berenson

Third-year player (left to right), Danielle Ponce and Samantha McLaughlin, prepare for a serve during their volleyball home opener versus the Mitchell Mountaineers. Left, second-year player Julie Doyl prepares to serve during one of the games.

Featuring Comedians...



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